To The Members of the Leiston Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

As your Medical Officer of Health, I have the honor to present my report on the Sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1904.

PUBLIC HEALTH: The general health of the district has been good.

The Death Rate is eminently satisfactory.

The Birth Rate is up to the average for the last seven years, which in view of the conditions prevailing generally is very good.

The Infant Mortality is below the average.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: With respect to Notifiable infectious disease the results are not so good as usual. There have been 30 cases notified as against 5 in 1903, 22 in 1902 and 27 in 1901. Ten of these are ascribed to diphtheria. Now we, in common with, I think, the whole of the rest of England, have during the year, suffered from a large number of undoubtedly infectious sore throats, numbering, I suppose, several hundreds. A great many of these cases had all the superficial appearances of diphtheria, but of several swabbings I submitted to a London bacteriologist, not one was pronounced to be diphtheria.

I am inclined to think therefore, that some of the cases notified may have been open to doubt. Where the diphtheria antitorin was used, some cases responded, whilst in others no marked result was obtained, but when in doubt it is the wisest course to be on the safe side and to act accordingly.

There were no deaths attributed to diphtheria.

Your Council prosecuted one individual for exposing himself wilfully whilst suffering from diphtheria, obtaining a conviction and substantial penalty, a very necessary proceeding in the interest of the public health.

SCARLET FEVER: is responsible for twelve notifications.

Mild Scarlet Fever is a very insidious disease, and, from the lack of early realisation on the part of parents that their child may be suffering from an infectious disease, many members of a family, may contract the disease before the danger is realised, as

exemplified by the fact that two families are responsible for 8 out of the 12 cases. Prompt diagnosis & Isolation are necessary to prevent the spread of this disease more particularly, and as we have no Isolation Hospital in the district, we may congratulate ourselves that there has not been a severe epidemic.

ERYSIPELAS: There were five cases notified. The origin of this disease is obscure.

Continued Fever, one: and Puerperal Fever, two cases, make up the total of 30.

The DEATHS attributed to NOTIFIABLE disease were two, viz: the two cases of Puerperal Fever.

No part of the district is especially responsible in this matter of infectious disease, even Paradise Place having only two cases, whereas in 1901 there were 10 out of a total of 27.

Our POPULATION is INCREASING steadily every year, the number of new houses also.

The SMOKING OF CHEAP CIGARETTES, when indulged in by the young, as undoubtedly it is to a deplorable extent, is very harmful. Our legislators would do well to follow the example of some of the American States, by making the sale of cigarettes to infants under the age of 16 years, an offence punishable under the law.

HABITUAL DRUNKENNESS is rarely met with, though, I am bound to say, there is a great deal more liquor consumed in the district than is good for the Public Health. Not only do the individuals themselves suffer, but so also do all those dependent on them.

SPITTING in the Streets, besides being a dirty, disgusting, and unnecessary habit, causes the spread of consumption when indulged in by those suffering from this disease. Your Council has caused hand bills to be posted requesting persons not to indulge in this habit. I wish it were possible to pass a bye law making it a punishable offence.

MORTALITY: The DEATH RATE is very satisfactory, viz: 10.1 per 1000, as against 12.3 in 1903, 16 in 1902, and 11.3 average for the last 7 years. Death Rate for East Suffolk 1903: 13.82. England & Wales 1903: 15.4

[illegible] by the fact that two families are responsible for a [illegible] of the 16 cases. Prompt diagnosis & [illegible] are necessary to prevent the spread of this disease more particularly, and as we have no isolation hospital in the district, we may congratulate ourselves that there has not been a severe epidemic.

ERYSIPELAS: There were five cases notified. The origin of this disease is obscure.

Continued fever, one: and Puerperal fever, two cases, [illegible] of the total of 20.

The [illegible] attributed to ERYSIPELAS disease were two, viz: the two cases of Puerperal fever.

No part of the district is especially responsible in this matter of infectious disease, even Sanguine Blues having only two cases, whereas in 1901 there were 40 out of a total of 87.

Our PEPULATION is INCREASING steadily every year, the number of new houses also.

The [illegible] of [illegible] CIGARETTES, when indulged in by the young, [illegible] unmoulmedly it is to a [illegible] extent, is very [illegible]. Our legislature would do well to follow the example of some of the [illegible] States, by making the sale of cigarettes to [illegible] under the age of 16 years, an offence punishable under the law.

ANTIVIRAL [illegible] is really not [illegible], though, I am [illegible] there is a great [illegible] conducted in the district that is good for the public health. Not only do the individuals [illegible] [illegible], but we also at all those dependent on them.

SPITTING in the streets, [illegible] being a [illegible], disgusting, and [illegible], causes the spread of [illegible] [illegible] indulged in by those suffering from this disease. Your Council has [illegible] [illegible] to be [illegible] [illegible] persons not to indulge in this habit. I [illegible] it were possible to pass a [illegible] [illegible] it a [illegible] [illegible].

MORTALITY: The [illegible] is very satisfactory, viz: 11.1 per [illegible], as against 12.3 in 2000, 16 in 1900, and 11.3 average for the last 7 years. Death Rate [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]: [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]: [illegible]

Of the causes of death:

Bronchitis & old age combined	8	
Heart Diseases	7	
Consumption	1	only.
deaths under one year	6	

INFANT MORTALITY, shows a distinct improvement being 60.4 per 1000 births registered, as against 142.8 for 1903, and 74 the average for the last 7 years.

BIRTHS; 91 Births registered as against 77 for 1903, 89 in 1902 and 80 the average for the last 7 years.

BIRTH RATE: 25.5 per 1000. 22.1 in 1903. 25.8 the 7 years average.

RATE FOR EAST SUFFOLK:1903:- 25.40. ENGLAND & WALES 1903:- 28.4

MARRIAGES: Number celebrated: 20. Rate 5.3 per 1000.

POPULATION: At the census of 1901: 3259. Estimated to end of 1903: 3548. 1904: Net gain by births over deaths: 55. By new comers over removals: 119; making the population at end of 1904: 3647; being a gain of 388 since 1901.

NEW HOUSES: Built during 1904: 30, of which 28 were occupied.

DRAINAGE: The new sewer continues to perform its work satisfactorily. The number of connections at theend of 1903 was 54: there are now 83 shewing that the public appreciate its usefulness. Eastward Ho has had the sewer laid: there still remains Church & Central Roads, Upton Place, Grimsey, Kitchener & Buller Roads to be dealt with.

I hope the Council will be able to deal with these roads during 1905 as all house refuse water, slops &c, have to be thrown on to the gardens surrounding the houses. The old drain still remains in use, being connected with the new sewer. This is a mistake, as the connections to this drain are neither properly trapped nor ventilated. The old drain should be done away with and all connections made to the new sewer.

The Septic Tank and Storm Water overflow have both worked satisfactorily, the increased outflow capacity of the latter having prevented the flooding which occurred previously.

In the number of death:

Pandemitis & old age sanitary	8
Heart Diseases	7
Consumption	1 [illegible]
Death [illegible]	6

[illegible], where a distinct improvement being 30.6 per 1000 births registered, as against 24.8 for 1908, and 74 the average for the last 7 years.

[illegible]: [illegible] births registered as against 77 for 1908, [illegible] 1908 [illegible] the average for the last 7 years.

[illegible]: [illegible] per 1000. [illegible] in 1903. [illegible] the 7 years average.

[illegible]: [illegible]

[illegible]: Number delivered: [illegible]. [illegible] per 1000.

[illegible]: at the census of 1901: [illegible]. Estimated to end of 1905: [illegible]. 1904: Net gain by births over deaths: [illegible]. By new [illegible] removals: 119, making the population at end of 1904: [illegible]; being a gain of [illegible] since 1901.

[illegible]: Built during 1904: [illegible], of which [illegible] were [illegible].

[illegible]: The new [illegible] continues to perform its work satisfactorily. The number of connections at thread of 1905 was [illegible]: these are now [illegible] showing that the public appreciate its usefulness. Eastward to [illegible] the [illegible] field: there still remains Church & Central Roads, Tyron Place, Grimsey, Kitchener & Butler Roads to be dealt with.

I hope the Council will be able to deal with these roads during 1905 as all [illegible] rates, [illegible], have to be thrown [illegible] in the gardens surrounding the houses. The old drain still remains in use, being connected with the new [illegible]. This is a mistake, as the connections to this drain are neither properly trapped nor ventilated. The old drain should be done away with and all connections made to the new sewer.

The Septic Tank and Storm Water overflow have both worked satisfactorily, the increased outflow capacity of the latter having prevented the flooding which occurred previously.

WATER SUPPLY: The water supplied by the Council has been good and sufficient. It is hard for domestic purposes. I would venture to suggest to the Council the possibility of some softening process being employed which would render it more acceptable to the consumers.

The number of connections made up to the end of 1903 was 119: during 1904 28 fresh connections have been made. In many cases as a result of my analysis and recommendations to the Council the Landlords have been persuaded to supply their tenants with the Councils water in place of the old impure Shallow Wells, though I do not think any steps have been taken to prevent the use of the said wells.

The water is supplied by Messrs R. Garrett & Sons Ltd under contract with the Council from their Work's Well. The char ges are moderate.

HOUSE ACCOMODATION: The large majority of houses have sufficient accomodation ventilation and surrounding air space. There is still great demand for good class artisan dwellings. The demand exceeds the supply, making it difficult to build a good class of house with prospect of obtaining reasonable interest for outlay. Building operations however still continue.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL: By pail closets mostly emptied by contract with the Council. This system, combined with an adequate supply of properly prepared dry earth, is undoubtedly the best for Country districts where water for flushing purposes is not available; the difficultly of obtaining the dry earth unfortunately militates against the efficacy of the system.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE: Carried out efficiently by the Council's Contractor. The use of pails as receptacles is very general, making the removal much easier and the general conditions much cleaner.

[illegible]: The water supplied by the Council has been good and sufficient. It is used for domestic purposes. I would venture to suggest to the Council the possibility of some reference [illegible] which would lessen it more acceptable to the [illegible].

The [illegible] of [illegible] was as at the end of 1906 was this: During 1906 [illegible] have been made. In many cases as a result of my [illegible] and [illegible] to the Council the landlords have been persuaded to supply their tenants with the Council water in place of the old [illegible], though I do not think [illegible] have been in [illegible] use of the [illegible].

The water is supplied by [illegible] [illegible] under contract with the Council from [illegible]'s Well. The [illegible] are [illegible].

[illegible]: The large majority of houses have sufficient accommodation, ventilation and surrounding air space. There is still great demand for good class [illegible]. The demand [illegible] the supply, [illegible] is sufficient to build a good class of house with prospect of [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible]. [illegible] operations [illegible] still [illegible].

[illegible]: [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Council. [illegible], [illegible] with an adequate supply of properly [illegible] [illegible], is [illegible] the best [illegible] districts where [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is not [illegible], the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible].

[illegible]: [illegible] and [illegible] by the Council's [illegible]. The [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] is very [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

BYE LAWS & NUISANCES: The general sanitary condition of the district is very satisfactory, much good work having been done by the Inspector of Nuisances during the last year, e.g. the abolition of pig styes and accumulations of house refuse, the discontinuance of the use of dead wells and of the old fashioned privy or midden.

BUILDING BYE LAWS: The Council approved and adopted Building Bye Laws in 1902 but the Local Government Board did not approve of them and returned them for amendment. I am of opinion that the model bye laws issued by the Local Government Board for districts such as ours, are unnecessarily stringent in many respects. The requirements would add so materially to the cost of construction that I doubt whether it would be possible to build the class of house we chiefly require without raising the rents to a prohibitive extent.

ROADS: The condition of the Roads continue to be bad; something has been done during the past year to improve the conditions, but much remains still to be done.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES: The four licensed Slaughter Houses in the district have been kept properly linewashed and in good condition. Certain recommendations, made in respect of the surroundings in one instance, are being carried out, which, when completed, will much improve the Sanitary conditions.

COW SHEDS: I found mostly satisfactory. Too much attention cannot be paid to the cleanliness of the milking places and to the washing of the cows udders and the operators hands before the process commences. Cows should never be milked in the yards in which they sleep, but should be removed to clean stalls and be themselves thoroughly cleansed from all filth attaching to the udder.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL: I must repeat my previously expressed regrets as to the lack of provision for the isolation of cases of infectious disease occurring in the district.

[illegible] & [illegible]: [illegible]

SUPPORTING [illegible] LAWS: [illegible]

[illegible]: [illegible]

[illegible]: [illegible]

[illegible]: [illegible]

[illegible]: [illegible]

[illegible]: [illegible]

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACT 1901.

A) FACTORIES: Messrs Richard Garrett & Sons Ltd, Ironworks.

a) SAFETY FROM FIRE: There is a steam fire engine on the works manned by the employees and adequate means of escape in the event of fire.

b) HOME WORK: None.

c) CLOSETS: The accomodation is adequate and satisfactory.

B) DOMESTIC FACTORIES: None

C) WORK SHOPS:

I) DRESSMAKING WORKSHOPS: I found all in a satisfactory condition. No overcrowding.

NO HOME WORK.--

TENEMENT WORKSHOPS: None.

II) BAKE HOUSES: The closet accomodation at Mr. Westbrooks bakeys is now satisfactory. The bake house proper has been pulled down and rebuilt, constituting a great improvement.
No underground bake houses.

III) LAUNDRIES: None.

IV) DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS: None.

V) STABLE YARDS: The two Stable yards are in a satisfactory condition, with adequate closet accomodation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

[illegible]

Dec 2. 05

[illegible]

A) [illegible]: [illegible]

a) [illegible]: [illegible]

b) [illegible]: [illegible]

c) [illegible]: [illegible]

d) [illegible]: [illegible]

e) [illegible]:

1) [illegible]: [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]: [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]